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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

INVENTORY No. 110


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Issued November 1933

PLANT MATERIAL INTRODUCED BY THE DIVISION OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION, BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1932 (Nos. 95552-98256)

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Inventory 110, recording plant material received by the Division of Foreign Plant Introduction between January 1 and March 31, 1932 (nos. 95552-98256), is conspicuous for two major groups—the one of soybeans containing 1,503 introductions, and the other the collections of the Allison V. Armour expedition to the West Indies and South America on which both David Fairchild and P. H. Dorsett collected for the Division a total of 371 numbers.

No two collections could be cited that would more perfectly illustrate the extremes of purposes that have to be pursued. The soybean collection is part of an intensive study of soybean types and varieties inaugurated by P. H. Dorsett and W. J. Morse during their explorations in 1929-30 when this crop was studied in the field. If the present introductions add as much to the advancement of this new crop as the former introductions have done, this collection, so dryly recorded here, will be of national importance. The other mass of material represents a study of the flora native and introduced of the islands and countries traversed, with the specific intent of establishing as many new plants as possible in the comparable areas about the Gulf of Mexico and in southern Florida. It embraces some duplicates, some one of which may be more suited than the rest for our conditions.

Conspicuous among the many subtropical plants, both economic and ornamental in character, are included seeds of many kinds of palms (over 40 numbers) some of them from plants native to the country of collection, others from exotic species established there. Plants raised from these seeds will be planted for testing in the South to determine their suitability for our soils and climates, and added to the present collection at Coconut Grove will make one of the most important collections in the country.

Through the courtesy of Maj. Lionel de Rothschild, London, England, the Division has shared in some of the seeds from the last Forrest expedition in China, which sent in, among other things, many rhododendrons; others who have contributed to the rhododendron studies of the Division are the Hon. Henry MacLaren and J. R. Stevenson, who have sent seeds of species and varieties for test as to hardiness.

Conspicuous additions of chestnut material from China are comprised in four sets of material (95631-95648, 95663, 95664, 97853-97857, 98001-98009) from Peter Liu and one from Japan (96390-96420) through R. Kent Beattie from